

29 JUL 1948

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DIA F-77/1763

Date: 15 MAR 1978 [ ] GENERAL

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1. Early decision on Italian colonies held necessary--US diplomatic representatives in London have expressed their agreement with the view of UK and French representatives that a year's delay in deciding on the disposition of former Italian colonies is undesirable. The US representatives urge that the US make an immediate decision as to whether it will accept trusteeship of Tripolitania or will attempt to persuade the UK to accept this trusteeship. These representatives add that the UK wishes the US to accept this trusteeship in order to assure western Europe and Mediterranean countries that the US is assuming a more positive role in the Mediterranean area. They further suggest that the US might inform the French that any possibility of Italian trusteeship of Tripolitania has been excluded from US thinking.
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## EUROPE

2. GREECE: Political leaders interfering in military affairs--US Ambassador Grady reports a recent conflict between Prime Minister Sophoulis and the US and UK military advisers concerning the removal of an inefficient Greek officer in the Grammos campaign. During the discussions, Sophoulis attempted to put pressure on the military advisers by threatening to resign. Grady cites this conflict as another instance of Greek political interference in strictly military affairs. Grady feels that the US should recognize that it may eventually be necessary to insist on a military solution of a military problem, even at the cost of causing the resignation of the government.
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## NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. PALESTINE: Jews reluctant to demilitarize Jerusalem--US Consul General Macdonald reports that delay in demilitarizing Jerusalem is leading to a critical situation and that unless
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State Department review completed

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positive action is taken within a few days, demilitarization of the city may be impossible. Macdonald says that the Jews are opposed to demilitarization because they fear that it will lead to internationalization. He believes that if the expected trouble develops between Hagana (the Israeli Army) and the forces of Irgun Zvai Leumi (Jewish extremist group), the Government of Israel will insist on remaining in Jerusalem in order to "protect" it from dissident elements. In such an event, Macdonald feels that Israel would probably proclaim Jerusalem as part of the Jewish state and the Arabs would be given just cause to accuse the UN of assisting the Jews through the truce.

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